

—the Lok Jumbish Programme which was undertaken in Rajasthan with the basic objective of achieving education for all;

—the Scheme for Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools;

—and the Mahila Samakhyia Programme which aims at providing opportunities for education for women and adolescent girls and bringing about their greater participation in both formal and non-formal education programmes.

In addition to the above, the Government is now in the process of formulating a scheme entitled the "National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level" for providing free education to girls/Women upto graduation level.

Sanskrit Vidyapeeths

1477. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Sanskrit Vidyapeeths in the country;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal to establish new Vidyapeeths during the financial year 2000-2001; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) There are eight Sanskrit Vidyapeeths and 77 affiliated Sanskrit institutions being run under the aegis of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, a proposal to establish a new Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha Mumbai (Maharashtra) is under the active consideration of the Government.

Provision of Transport and meals for primary schools children

1478. DR. RAJA RAMANNA:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether primary schools all over India are both thinly spread out and far from the villages that they serve;

(b) if so, whether arrangements could be made to transport children by bullock carts, etc., in cases where it is beyond one Km., so as to reduce proliferation of primary schools and that all the children have educational facilities; and

(c) whether the transport system can also be used for the supply of mid-day meals, prepared at some centralised point?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to Fifth All India Educational Survey, 1986, 94 percent of the rural population have a primary school within a walking distance of one Km. All unserved habitations not having a learning centre within a radius of one Km., are proposed to be provided with tearing centres under the proposed new scheme of Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of access being provided in all unserved habitations.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Government Schools

1479. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped financing State Governments to introduce mid-day meals in Government schools in the Country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of amount incurrent on mid-day meal in the entire country during the last three years, State-wise/District-wise; and

(d) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Under National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meal Scheme) foodgrains are made available free of cost to States/UTs through Food Corporation of India (FCI). This Ministry reimburses the cost of foodgrains to FCI directly and also reimburses the cost of transport through District Authorities/lifting